

Message Text

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SUBJ: RABIN ON THE BENEFITS OF SINAI II AND LEBANON

1. DURING A CALL ON HIM BY SECRETARY USERY ON AUGUST 30, PRIME MINISTER RABIN NOTED THE APPROACHING ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF SINAI II AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE BENEFITS OF THE AGREEMENT. HIS REMARKS WERE SIMILAR TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE RECENTLY ALTHOUGH HE DEVELOPED THEM MORE FULLY FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE AGREEMENT HAS HAD THREE MAJOR RESULTS:

2. FIRST, IT HAS GIVEN EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP A CHANCE TO CONCENTRATE ON INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND THIS IS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE. GREATER PRIORITY IS NOW GIVEN TO ECONOMIC MEASURES SUCH AS THE WIDENING OF THE CANAL AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPELINE BETWEEN THE GULF OF SUEZ AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE EGYPTIANS STILL TALK BELIGERENTLY BUT ARE NOW ACTING DIFFERENTLY.

3. SECOND, THE AGREEMENT HAS ADDED TO EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND HAS FACILITATED THE GROWING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT. THIS SHIFT FROM RELIANCE ON THE SOVIET UNION HAS HELPED EGYPT SHIFT FROM A MILITARY TO AN ECONOMIC EMPHASIS.

4. THIRD, THE AGREEMENT HAS ADDED TO THE TENSION BETWEEN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. THE FACT THAT CAIRO WAS ATTACKED BY ALL ARAB STATES FOR CONCLUDING SINAI II ILLUSTRATES THE DEEP HATRED THE ARABS

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HAVE FOR ISRAEL BECAUSE IT SHOWS THAT THE WORST THING AN ARAB

LEADER CAN DO IS BE ACCUSED OF MAKING PEACE WITH ISRAEL. HOWEVER, THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS BROUGHT A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB WORLD. BECAUSE EGYPT AND SYRIA COULD NO LONGER COUNT ON COOPERATION WITH EACH OTHER, THEY EACH TOOK STEPS TO SEEK OTHER SUPPORT; THIS LED SYRIA TO SEEK TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN LEBANON.

5. RABIN THEN REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE LEBANESE WAR AND SAID THAT SYRIA UNEXPECTEDLY DECIDED EARLY THIS YEAR THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT THE BALANCE WHICH HAD EXISTED BETWEEN THE CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS IN LEBANON AND PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEFTIST PALESTINIAN REGIME THERE. SUCH A REGIME WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE AND WOULD DRAW SYRIA INTO A WAR WITH ISRAEL. THE INEVITABLE RESULT--IN ADDITION TO FACING ISRAEL--WOULD BE THAT SYRIA WOULD BE SQUEEZED BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE NEW LEFTIST REGIME IN LEBANON. RABIN SAID HE CANNOT SEE A SOLUTION IN LEBANON WITHOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN INTERFERENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HOST COUNTRY, BUT IRAQ AND LIBYA WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION WHICH RESTRICTS THE PALESTINIAN ROLE IN LEBANON. AS HE INDICATED IN HIS US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT INTERVIEW, RABIN SAID, THOSE ARAB COUNTRIES WHO FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT PALESTINIAN WELFARE SHOULD ACCEPT THEM FOR RESIDENCE. THE MAIN THE MAIN INTEREST OF IRAQ AND LIBYA REMAINS THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON SO THAT THE PALESTINIANS, WITH IRAQI AND LIBYAN VOLUNTEERS, CAN TAKE OVER.

6. RABIN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT RECENT ISRAELI MOVES AND MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS ARE STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO SAYD THAT PEACE IS AT HAND. HOWEVER, IT IS NOW CLEAR TO EGYPT AND SYRIA THAT THEY CANNOT IGNORE THE NEED FOR SAUDI ARABIAN FINANCIAL HELP; THIS FACT SHOULD BE USED CAREFULLY, SLOWLY AND DELICATELY AS PART OF THE PROCESS WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE THAT HIGHER PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS THAN TO WAR. HE NOTED THAT TO DATE SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN WILLING ONLY TO BE GENEROUS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AIMED AT ISRAEL AND NOT IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. HE SAID KHALID'S ADVISERS ARE REASONABLE AND WESTERN-EDUCATED, CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING GEO-POLITICAL FACTORS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WULD SURELY LISTEN TO WESTERN ADVICE. HE NOTED AS AN EXAMPLE THE RECENT SAUDI MOVES TO RESTRICT THE ADMISSION OF PALESTINIANS BASED ON

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THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF KUWAIT OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PALESTINIANS THERE.
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